

REMARKS

This is a Substitute Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed 17 June 2004. Claims 26-95 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to present these claims in another application. New Claims 96-124 have been added. An IDS and Request for Extension of Time (with fee) and amendments to the claims were timely filed in response to the Office Action mailed 17 June 2004.

Applicants' representative had scheduled an interview with Examiner Markham for 11 February 2005. In advance of that interview, Examiner Markham kindly reviewed the Amendment filed on or about 15 December 2004, and indicated that it would not be entered because there was a change in claims from method claims to product claims. Accordingly, it was agreed that Applicants' representative would submit this Substitute Amendment. The IDS will still be considered. Any additional claim fee has already been submitted, however, if any additional claim fee is required, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fee to the Deposit Account of the undersigned as previously authorized.

All rejections of record are believed to be moot based on the newly presented claims which overcome the rejections based upon, *inter alia*, 35 U.S.C. 112 and 35 U.S.C. 103. The attention of the Examiner is respectfully directed to the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,971 which issued from a prior application upon which the present application is based. It is believed that all presently presented claims, whist being method claims, are narrower than Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,971 which is a product claim, and the presently submitted claims are believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance are solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that an interview will expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged and requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP



Jerold I. Schneider
Registration No. 24,765
Attorney of Record

1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2412
Telephone No. (202) 861-3900
Facsimile No. (202) 223-2085

4650963.1